



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

7 ALIENS ARRESTED ILLEGALLY WORKING AT MILITARY BASE

All 6 Mexicans and one Canadian have been placed in removal proceedings

MOUNTAIN HOME, Idaho — Seven illegal alien men were arrested at the U.S. Air Force Base here yesterday following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations (OSI).

ICE special agents arrested the aliens — six from Mexico and one from Canada — who were working for Nutek Construction, which was sub-contracted to build housing on the secure air base. According to its website, Nutek is based in Brisbane, Calif. Parsons Evergreen, a construction company with contracts on a variety of military bases, was the primary contractor but was not part of this investigation.

ICE special agents interviewed more than 70 people during yesterday's investigation, including about 30 people from Nutek.

This investigation is part of an ongoing ICE comprehensive strategy for fighting illegal immigration that includes effective worksite enforcement aimed at promoting national security, protecting critical infrastructure and ensuring fair labor standards. In addition to military bases, ICE has also conducted similar operations at oil refineries, nuclear power plants and airports.

“One of our priorities for worksite enforcement has to be to protect potential targets of terrorism,” said Jeff Copp, special agent-in-charge of the ICE Denver office. “Our special agents work hand-in-hand with these facilities to identify gaps in security, starting with its personnel. It’s essential that military bases like Mountain Home AFB know who has access to its facility.” Copp heads the ICE Office of Investigations which includes the states of: Colorado, Idaho, Wyoming and Montana.

The aliens arrested have been placed in removal proceedings, and will appear before a federal immigration judge who will determine whether they should be deported.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.